

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Serial Number: 09/551,299

Filing Date: April 18, 2000

Title: COMBINED UNINTERRUPTIBLE POWER SUPPLY AND BUS CONTROL MODULE TO IMPROVE POWER MANAGEMENT
AND LEGACY SUPPORT

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20. The device of claim 16, wherein the at least one legacy expansion bus structure includes a PCMCIA bus structure

21. The device of claim 16, further comprising at least one expansion slot connected to the at least one legacy expansion bus structure.

22. The device of claim 21, further comprising at least one expansion card for coupling with the at least one expansion slot, wherein the at least one expansion card includes at least one serial port.

23. The device of claim 21, further comprising at least one expansion card for coupling with the at least one expansion slot, wherein the at least one expansion card includes at least one parallel port.

24. The device of claim 21, further comprising at least one modem connector connected to the at least one legacy expansion bus structure.

25. The device of claim 21, further comprising at least one network connector connected to the at least one legacy expansion bus structure.

26. The device of claim 21, further comprising at least one DSL port connected to the at least one legacy expansion bus structure.

27. The device of claim 21, further comprising at least one cable modem port connected to the at least one legacy expansion bus structure.

28. The device of claim 16, wherein the serial bus includes a Universal Serial Bus (USB).

29. The device of claim 16, further comprising an uninterruptible power supply (UPS)

coupled to and controlled and monitored by the control module.

30. The device of claim 29, wherein the bus control module controls a plurality of switches to control power from the UPS to a plurality of external devices.

31. A device for expanding a computer interface, comprising:
an upstream connector for connecting to a computer through a Universal Serial Bus (USB) using a USB protocol, wherein the device is external to the computer;
a PCI bus structure having a PCI bus protocol; and
a bus control module connected to the upstream connector and to the PCI bus structure, wherein the bus control module is adapted to provide a protocol conversion between the USB protocol and the PCI bus protocol.

al 32. A method for expanding a computer interface, comprising:
providing at least one legacy expansion bus structure in a device external to a computer, wherein each legacy expansion bus structure has a legacy bus protocol;
communicating between the device and the computer using a serial communication protocol; and
providing a protocol conversion between the serial communication protocol and the legacy bus protocol for each of the at least one legacy expansion bus structure.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein providing at least one legacy expansion bus structure includes providing a PCI bus structure.

34. The method of claim 32, wherein providing at least one legacy expansion bus structure includes providing an ISA bus structure.

35. The method of claim 32, wherein providing at least one legacy expansion bus structure includes providing an EISA bus structure.

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36. The method of claim 32, wherein providing at least one legacy expansion bus structure includes providing a PCMCIA bus structure

37. The method of claim 32, wherein communicating between the device and the computer using a serial communication protocol includes communicating between the device and the computer using a USB protocol.

38. A method for expanding a computer interface, comprising:
providing a PCI bus structure in a device external to a computer, wherein the PCI bus structure has a PCI bus protocol;
communicating between the device and the computer using a USB protocol; and
providing a protocol conversion between the USB protocol and the PCI bus protocol.

Remarks

New claims 16-38 have been added. Support for new claims 16-38 is found in the specification and drawings. No new matter has been added.

Examination of pending claims 1-38 is respectfully requested.